



The Heterodyne

**Bulletin of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association
An Affiliated Club of the American Radio Relay League**

**West Valley Amateur Radio Association, W6PIY — <http://www.wvara.org>
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April 2009

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m., April 15, 2009 at the American Red Cross, 2731 North First Street at Plumeria (between Trimble and Montague Expressway) in San José.
Speaker: To be determined — **Subject:** To be determined

PACIFICON 2009 — On May 1, 2, and 3, the ARRL Pacific Division convention will be held with Emcommwest in Reno, Nevada. The convention will take place at Circus Circus Hotel, with lots to do and see. The keynote speaker from the ARRL will be Field Organization Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, and on Saturday night the special guest speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, formerly of the FCC. This is one evening you do not want to miss. Advance registration is \$10; admission will be \$15 at the door. Advance registration ends April 22. The vendor hall has been expanded and will feature a host of great products and services from the latest gear and rigs to antennas, books, badges, jewelry, and much more!

Led by HRO, Icom, and Yaesu, many of your favorite vendors will be there. The Saturday morning "Reno Ham Swap" will be free to all sellers (just bring tables and chairs). The swap meet will be in the hotel's parking lot right across the street at 6th and Sierra with setup after 6a.m. and selling beginning at 7a.m. Then at midnight on Saturday, the mysterious but always fun "Wouff-Hong" ceremony occurs. Plus, raffle prizes include radios, antennas, gift certificates, go-kits and supplies, etc. The special event station, N7V, will be operating from the swap site all day. Visit N7V, operate it, make a contact, and collect the station's special QSL card. All information and registration details can be found on our website at <http://www.emcommwest.org/>.

Questions? Send an e-mail message to info@emcommwest.org. Enjoy a fun-filled weekend in "The Biggest Little City In The World" at EMCOMMWEST / PACIFICON 2009!

ARRL Field Day 2009 — Get ready for the official 2009 ARRL Field Day. The web page is up and running at <http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay>. This page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links. The page also includes a quick link to the map-based Field Day station locator where users can search for public Field Day sites. "Field Day is the largest on-the-air operating event," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The event draws tens of thousands of radio amateurs to the airwaves over a single weekend." This year, Field Day is June 27-28. According to Henderson, it has become a tradition to create a new logo each year to commemorate Field Day: "This year's logo evokes a sense of the 'great outdoors' in camp-like fashion. We hope the logo inspires even more participants to get active, get outdoors and get on-the-air." This year's logo was designed

by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS. The Field Day page also includes a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, hats, pins and other supplies. All of the items are available for ordering now; many of the items are already in stock. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.

News from Former WVARA Member Ed Darrah, K7ERD (ex-KF6OTC), Mar. 30, 2009 —

Former WVARA member Ed Darrah has moved to Pasco, Washington. Here are his observations about life at his new location:

"Winter here is different than in the rest of the state. We get about 6 to 8 inches of rain each year. It's arid here. We are on the edge of the desert in a way. As for snow, we had 9 inches fall just before Christmas, and 1 inch since then. What we do get is cold — 7 degrees in the early morning in December and January. But it's often clear then — clear skies and cold. Last summer it got to 105 degrees. So, we have four distinct seasons here. We're only 400 feet above sea level here. Spokane is 2800 feet. The Cascade mountains are to the west and the Blue mountains to the east, towards Idaho. Both get severe weather, either huge rains or snow. We get neither. Spokane is usually 10 degrees colder than here. As for snow removal, we have law here too, but it is not enforced much. And remember, snow here is fluff (little water content) unlike the wet, heavy California snow. It's not hard to shovel!"

"I have a great ham shack. The house was a model home, so the third car stall was turned into a sales office. I still have space for two cars, with the third space being my shack. As far as operating, I've done very little so far. My Kenwood is on the bench for repairs. It's 25 years old and needs some tender loving care, including cleaning. I've put my Collins KWM-2 in its place. It seems to work O.K. On a DX contest this last weekend, I heard a station from Croatia. The rig must be O.K. I'm using a small G5RV antenna mounted under the eave of the garage. You can hardly see it. My vertical needs a new trap before it can be erected. I'm debating whether to put it up or not. We have loose CC&Rs here, which is good. I can have up to 30-foot high antenna on the side of the house and an 80-foot antenna behind the house. I'm just trying to be low key for now."

You can contact Ed via e-mail at eddarrah@sonic.net.

Premature Report of Ham's Demise — In October 2006, Peter Birk (formerly WB2DCG) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, applied for a vanity call sign, K4ZL, under the FCC's vanity call sign program. This call sign was previously held by Elmer B. Jackson, Jr. of Laverne, Tennessee. Jackson held this call sign since before 1978; it was set to expire June 11, 2008. In October 2006, the Commission received notification that Jackson had passed away February 14, 2004, so the FCC canceled his license as of this date. More than two years after the date of Jackson's death, Birk applied for and received K4ZL.

Per FCC rules pertaining to vanity call signs, certain family members and previous holders of the call sign are eligible to receive the dead person's call sign; after the two year period, the call sign is open for anyone to acquire it under the vanity call sign program.

In June 2008, Jackson notified the FCC that he was still very much alive and that he wished to renew his license. According to the FCC, based upon information they had received, "it appears that the call sign K4ZL was made available under the vanity call sign system as a result of a defective cancellation of the license originally held by Jackson. Further review determined that the information submitted to the Commission in 2006 pertained to a different person with the same name."

On Friday, March 27, Birk told the ARRL he had no idea Jackson had passed away. "There was no way for me to know that Elmer Jackson was not dead at the time I applied for K4ZL," Birk said.

"In fact, the FCC believed he was dead, as well."

On March 23, the FCC released an Order Proposing Modification and concluded that canceling K4ZL in 2006 "was defective" and that the call sign should not have been made available in the vanity call sign pool http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-656A1.pdf. To correct this error, the FCC "propose[s] to exchange K4ZL with the call sign previously assigned to Birk's amateur radio station, WB2DCG; and concurrently to assign call sign K4ZL back to Jackson's license, which was reinstated under call sign AJ4JT."

The Commission cited Section 316(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended <http://law.onecle.com/uscode/47/316.html>, saying it "provides the appropriate vehicle for resolving this matter. Section 316(a) permits the Commission to modify a station license if the action will promote the public interest, convenience, and necessity. In this connection, we note that the proposed modification would serve the public interest by ensuring that a licensee is not harmed by having his or her license canceled based on erroneous information submitted by a third party."

In accordance with Section 97.27(b) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.27.pdf, the FCC will not issue a modification order "until Birk has received notice of our proposed action and has had an opportunity to file a protest." Birk has 30 days from March 23 to submit a written statement to the FCC "with sufficient evidence to show that the modification would not be in the public interest." If Birk chooses not to file a protest, he will have waived his right to protest the modification and will have deemed to have consented to the modification.

International DX Convention: April 17-19: located at the airport Holiday Inn, Visalia, California. Sponsored by the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC), this event is the premier DX gathering in the world and participants travel from dozens of countries to attend. For more information on the event, see <http://dxconvention.org>. For more information on the Northern California DX Club, see <http://ncdxc.org>.

Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) Contest Academy, April 17: will occur during the first day of the International DX Convention. Contest Academy will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, 1 to 5 p.m. The cost will be \$10 to attend, which includes a contest resource kit.

Inspired by a strong growing interest in contesting at the International DX Convention, the Northern California Contest Club will provide will be a valuable learning experience for attendees. The primary goal will be to cover the basics of contesting, drawing from NCCC's 38-year reputation as a recognized participant and leader in amateur radio contesting. Program topics will be of interest to all participants, and will be presented by some of NCCC's most experienced testers.

You can read more about the Contest Academy at : http://dxconvention.org/?page_id=204

SVECS Breakfast and Meeting, April 25— The Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System (AA6BT/R, 146.115[+] MHz, 100 PL) group will hold its quarterly breakfast and meeting on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. The breakfast starts at 9 a.m., and is an all-you-can-eat buffet. The cost is \$5 per person. The program starts at 10 a.m. The door prize will be an H.T. radio. The speaker will be George Williams, N6NKT, who will speak about "Red Cross Communications Capabilities." In order for the group to prepare enough food, please RSVP to Lou, WA6QYS, at 408.241.7999 or send him an e-mail message at wa6qys@aol.com.

WVARA Tuesday Night Net Check-ins — X = checked in; # = net control.

Call Sign	Name	Mar. 10, 2009	Mar. 17, 2009	Mar. 24, 2009	Mar. 31, 2009
AB6XS	Kevin	X	X	X	X
AD6CL	Chuck			X	
AD6YU	Loren				X #
K1DOD	Jon	X		X	X
K6EBN	Eben	X			
K6QFO	Mike		X		
K6WAR	Bill		X	X	
KD6VOR	Marv				X
KF6EMB	Svend	X	X		
KF6UTE	Casey	X		X	X
KG6SEA	Tom	X		X	X
KK6VF	Kevin	X #	X #	X #	X
N6BIH	Senad			X	
W6HOC	Howard	X	X	X	X
W6RLK	Ron				X
W6RPH	Doug		X		
W6TQG	Phil	X			X
WB6KHP	Dave	X		X	X

Club Net: Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. on our club repeaters:

WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)			
Band	MHz	PL	Status
6 Meters	52.580-	151.4 Hz	Operating
2 Meters	147.39+	151.4 Hz	Operating
1.25 Meters	223.96-	156.7 Hz	Operating
0.70 Meter	441.35+	88.5 Hz	Operating
0.23 Meter	1286.2-	100 Hz	Operating

Maker Faire, San Carlos, CA, May 30– 31 — Michael Pechner, KI6QNZ will be in charge of the amateur radio demonstration.

ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, May 26— 29, Roswell, NM—

Six sessions will be offered again this year, the earliest in Roswell, New Mexico, May 26-29. The details of all the workshop dates, locations, and application deadlines are in a brochure that can be downloaded from www.arrl.org/ti . Questions may be sent to Mark Spencer, WA8SME, ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, 774 Eastside Rd., Coleville, CA 96107, mspencer@arrl.org , or by telephone at 530-495-9150.

Swap Meets —

Livermore SWAP
Robertson Park, Livermore
1st Sunday of the month, March through November

Info at: <http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html> Flyer at:
<http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swapbrochure.pdf>

ASVARO Electronics Flea Market
De Anza College, Cupertino
2nd Saturday of the month, March through October

Info at: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/> Flyer at:
<http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/efm-flyer.pdf>

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FIRST CLASS MAIL
